

# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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## VIRGINIA HOUSING COMMISSION

### SUMMARY

**Virginia Housing Commission  
The Assistance/Companion Animal Sub-Workgroup  
September 14, 2016, 9:00 AM  
October 31, 2016, 2:00 PM  
House Room C, General Assembly Building**

On Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 9:00 AM and Monday, October 31, 2016 at 2:00 PM the Assistance/Companion Animal Sub-Workgroup met in the 5th Floor East Conference Room of the General Assembly Building.

**Present were:**

Delegate David Bulova (by phone), John Cimino; Virginia Board People with Disabilities, Tom Payne; Office of the Attorney General, Mary Broz-Vaughan; Department of Professional regulation, Tyler Craddock; Virginia Manufactured and Mobile Home Association, Mathew Gray; Humane Society, Bismah Ahmed; Apartment OBA, Brian Gordon; Helen Hartiman; HOME, Chip Dicks; Martin Johnson; VAR, Eric Dunn; Virginia Poverty Law Center, and Elizabeth Palen; Executive Director of Virginia Housing Commission.

A discussion took place regarding reasonable accommodation for people with assistance animals in rental dwellings. The Attorney general's office offered a memorandum for discussion and a Guidance Document they had recently promulgated on the topic.

How to easily allow a rental manager to determine if an animal is an assistance animal was discussed at length.

Federal Fair Housing law and state implications were also discussed.

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At the second meeting a bill draft was available for review--in the time leading to the final Virginia Housing Commission meeting of the interim, on December 14 ,many versions of a bill draft with input from all parties was distributed by email.

A bill draft was recommended by the Commission to be introduced during the legislative session.

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